

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

Modern Door Corp.

Indiana MEP - Purdue Technical Assistance Program

Modern Door Corporation Opens Door for Continuous Improvement

Client Profile:

Modern Door Corp., a division of Plyco Corp. in Walkerton, Indiana, produces metal walk doors, ventilation products, and provides fasteners for post frame and metal clad building industries. The company employs 130 people.

Situation:

Modern Door's general manager, Rick Coffman, wanted to train his associates in methods to speed production, reduce inventory and use less space. He knew that there was a need for 'Lean' training and implementation as well, but that his biggest challenge was that the concept 'lean manufacturing' was new to his workforce. Coffman contacted the Purdue Technical Assistance Program (TAP), a NIST MEP network affiliate, for help.

Solution:

TAP and Modern Door management met to develop a tiered, customized training program for the company's employees. Delivered over a six-month period, this program included Value Stream Mapping for the office personnel, total productive maintenance for the maintenance team, a one-day overview for all employees, as well as in-depth training for Modern Door's Lean practitioners and champions. The training was completed ahead of schedule, and employees were involved and received immediate benefits. These tools expanded their knowledge of continuous improvement tools, and how they can be used to benefit the company. The hands-on training projects helped Modern Door immediate benefits by opening up floor space, improving inventory control, improving work flow, quality, and safety. This led to improved efficiencies and has also allowed for an improved team work approach with quality and safety at the source. Coffman said the training will help his company improve the quality of its products and become more globally competitive. ".....this training and newly learned tools have allowed Modern Door to focus on being flexible in a tough economic time, and still meet the needs of our customers. This has also allowed us to focus on launching or ramping up new product lines by applying these Lean principles, e.g., improved process mapping of a new line from our suppliers to our customer site, with a focus on effective flow, ease of assembly, tooling design, process capability, and up-front design of process controls. This advance product planning approach has been greatly improved by applying the tools we learned during the training. We believe this will greatly help launch new product offerings to our customers, control new product cost, reduce waste up-front, and allow us to quickly meet new market needs as the economy heats back up."

Results:

- * Improved efficiencies by 5 to 8 percent.
- * Achieved a more competitive and profitable position.

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Testimonial:

"We look at this training and application of these tools as only the beginning of our efforts to become a best-in-class Company in our core market, as we evolve to meet the ever-changing market demands, become more competitive, and develop new markets. We now have a solid foundation to work from with our entire work force. Our focus is to use the tools over and over, and make these methods a routine part of our everyday work."

Rick A. Coffman, General Manager